United Nations ST/IC/2010/12

Secretariat

22 March 2010

Information circular*

To: Members of delegations and staff

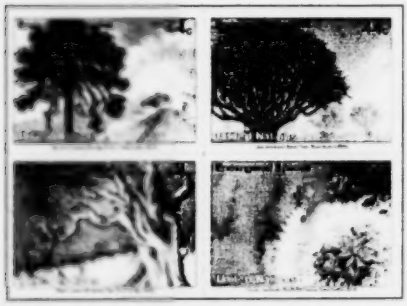
From: The Under-Secretary-General for Management

Subject: **First day of issue, 15 April 2010: "Endangered Species Series" and annual collection folders, New Geneva and Vienna Definitives — "International Year of Biodiversity"**

Commemorative stamps

1. On Thursday, 15 April 2010, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of 12 stamps depicting endangered species. These will be the eighteenth set of stamps in the UNPA multi-year Endangered Species Series. The Series was launched on 3 March 1993 to highlight the need for the protection of endangered species throughout the world. This year the endangered species feature a variety of plants, cacti and trees. The 2010 Endangered Species stamps were designed by Rosie Sanders (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

2. The issue will consist of three sheets of 16 stamps in denominations of $0.44, SwF 1.00 and €0.65. Each sheet will illustrate four different endangered species. (United States equivalents: SwF 1.00: $0.92 and €0.65: $0.88, subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)



Denomination:
New York values — $0.44

Endangered Species:
Monkey Puzzle (*Araucaria araucana*)
Quiver Tree (*Aloe dichotoma*)
Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus longaeva*)
Scarlet Ball Cactus (*Parodia haselbergii*)

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 15 July 2010.

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Denomination:
Geneva values — SwF 1.00

Endangered Species:
Krantz Aloe (*Aloe arborescens*)
Boojum Tree (*Fouquieria columnaris*)
Dragon Tree (*Dracaena draco*)
Snowdrop (*Galanthus krasnovii*)

Denomination:
Vienna values — €0.65

Endangered Species:
Pincushion Cactus (*Mammillaria zeilmanniana*)
Hoodia (*Hoodia gordonii*)
Tree Tumbo (*Welwitschia mirabilis*)
Crown of Thorns (*Euphorbia milii*)

2010 Endangered Species annual collection

3. On the same day, the United Nations Postal Administration will release the 2010 Endangered Species annual collection folder of single mint stamps.

4. The 2010 annual collection will be contained in a specially designed album. The album devotes separate pages to each of the 12 endangered species. Descriptive information is provided in English, French and German, and each stamp is beautifully highlighted by a colourful array of photographs relative to the species. It should be noted that the Endangered Species Series **will not** be included in the annual collection albums to be issued later in 2010.

5. The stamps are not affixed inside the album, although spaces and mounts have been provided for this purpose.

Triple-cancelled Endangered Species annual collection folder

6. Since the 2010 Endangered Species annual collection folder will contain stamps in all three denominations, special arrangements have been made by UNPA to make available to its collectors the Endangered Species collections, in which the stamps will be affixed and cancelled on 15 April, the first day of issue in New York, Geneva and Vienna, as appropriate.

7. The policy of offering triple cancellations for the Endangered Species annual collection will continue throughout the duration of this series.

Maximum cards

8. The thirtieth set of UNPA maximum cards will also be issued on 15 April 2010. Three different cards will be produced to accommodate the three different se-tenant blocks of four stamps being issued. To conform to the maximum cards issued for the Endangered Species in prior years, each maximum card will reproduce photographs of the species appearing on each of the stamps in the se-tenant block. The appropriate se-tenant blocks of stamps will be affixed and cancelled first day of issue for each respective office. The maximum card cancelled United Nations New York will sell for $2.14. The card cancelled United Nations Geneva is priced at $4.08, while the card cancelled United Nations Vienna is priced at $3.90. Owing to a new uniform pricing for all three UNPA offices, all three maximum cards are subject to exchange rate fluctuations.

9. UNPA will sell the plain cards (without stamps affixed) for $0.25.

Special limited edition silk cover

10. The release of the 2010 Endangered Species Series stamps will coincide with the Postage Stamp Mega Event being held at the New Yorker Hotel from 15 to 18 April. To mark this event UNPA has produced a special limited edition silk cover. One stamp from each office will be selected randomly and will be affixed to these covers and cancelled appropriately. These covers will sell for $3.95 while supplies last.

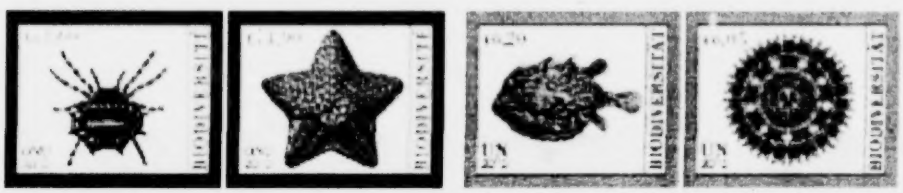
New Geneva and Vienna definitives — "International Year of Biodiversity"

11. On 15 April 2010, the United Nations Postal Administration will issue two new Geneva definitive stamps and two new Vienna definitive stamps on the theme "International Year of Biodiversity" in the denominations of SwF 1.60, SwF 1.90, €0.05 and €0.20. UNPA will issue two more New York definitive stamps on 18 October 2010 to complete the set of six definitive stamps on the topic. The designs were adapted as stamps by Deborah Halperin (United States of America). (United States equivalents: SwF 1.60: $1.48; SwF 1.90: $1.75; €0.05: $0.07 and €0.20: $0.27, subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

12. The United Nations declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. The purpose of the International Year is to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and the consequences of its loss.

13. The images selected are from the book *Art Forms of Nature* by the German biologist/artist Ernst Heinrich Haeckel (1834-1919).

SwF 1.60	A species of arachnid
SwF 1.90	A species of starfish
€0.05	A species of *Hydrodictyaceae* (colonial algae)
€0.20	A species of boxfish (*Ostraciidae*)



General information

14. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachets **only**. Members of delegations and the staff can obtain these items on Thursday, 15 April, at the UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

15. First-day-of-issue cancellations can be obtained at a temporary United States Postal Service substation located outside the United Nations Bookshop in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

16. Please visit the UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, which is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

17. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://unstamps.un.org.